

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A device for retaining the equatorial region of a lens capsule, comprising:  
a rod-shaped handle having a tip bent at an acute angle, the tip including, at a free end thereof, one of a plurality of linear branches and a pad.
2. The device according to Claim 1, further comprising:  
a positioning stopper located on the handle.
3. The device according to Claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of branches extends one of upward and downward relative to an axis of the handle.
4. The device according to Claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of branches extends one of leftward and rightward relative to an axis of the handle.
5. The device according to Claim 1, wherein the pad is a spatula shape.
6. The device according to Claim 1, wherein the device is made of a synthetic resin selected from at least one of polypropylene, nylon, silicone, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinyl fluoride, polymethyl methacrylate, polyimide, and a shape-memory resin.
7. The device according to Claim 1, wherein the device is made of a metal selected from at least one of stainless steel, aluminum, titanium, and a shape-memory metal.
8. The device according to Claim 1, wherein the handle includes another opposite tip that is one of a loop and hook.
9. A device for retaining the equatorial region of a lens capsule, comprising:

a rod-shaped device composed of synthetic resin or metal, having a handle with a length of 6 mm or more and a thickness of 0.01-1.0 mm, a tip, a bend formed between the handle and the tip at an acute angle, a length from a trough of the bend to an end of the tip being 1.5 mm or more, and the tip being one of a plurality of linear branches and a flat pad, with each branch having a thickness of 0.01-1 mm and a width between the branches being 1 mm or more, and the flat pad having an area of 1 mm<sup>2</sup> or more.

10. The device according to claim 9, further comprising:  
a positioning stopper located on the handle.

11. The device according to Claim 9, wherein each of the plurality of branches extends one of upward and downward relative to an axis of the handle.

12. The device according to Claim 9, wherein each of the plurality of branches extends one of leftward and rightward relative to an axis of the handle.

13. The device according to Claim 9, wherein the pad is a spatula shape.

14. The device according to Claim 9, wherein the synthetic resin is selected from at least one of polypropylene, nylon, silicone, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinyl fluoride, polymethyl methacrylate, polyimide, and a shape-memory resin.

15. The device according to Claim 9, wherein the metal is at least one of stainless steel, aluminum, titanium, and a shape-memory metal.

16. The device according to Claim 9, wherein the handle includes another opposite tip that is one of a loop and hook.

17. A method of retaining a lens capsule during cataract surgery of mammals, comprising the steps of:

inserting a lens equatorial region retainer, comprising a rod-shaped handle and a tip bent at an acute angle and including, at a free end thereof, one of a plurality of linear branches and a pad, in the lens capsule so that the pad pushes against the equatorial region to retain the capsule; and

performing a lens nucleus and cortex extraction.

18. A method of retaining a lens capsule during an intraocular lens implantation surgery of mammals, comprising the steps of:

performing cataractous lens extraction;

inserting a lens equatorial region retainer, comprising a rod-shaped handle and a tip bent at an acute angle and including, at a free end thereof, one of a plurality of linear branches and a pad, in the lens capsule so that the pad pushes against the equatorial region to retain the capsule; and

implanting an intraocular lens in the capsule.

19. A method of retaining the lens capsule during a cataractous lens extraction and intraocular lens implantation of mammals, comprising the steps of:

performing anterior capsulotomy;

inserting a lens equatorial region retainer, comprising a rod-shaped handle and a tip bent at an acute angle and including, at a free end thereof, one of a plurality of linear branches and a pad, in the lens capsule so that the pad pushes against the equatorial region to retain the capsule; and

performing the cataractous lens extraction and intraocular lens implantation surgery.

20. A method of retaining a lens capsule and intraocular-lens in situ after intraocular-lens implantation surgery of mammals, comprising the step of:

implanting a lens equatorial region retainer, comprising a rod-shaped handle having a first tip bent into an acute angle and including, at a free end thereof, one of a plurality of linear branches and a pad, and an opposite second tip, on a free end of which is formed one of a loop and a hook, in an eye during surgery.

21. The method as recited in claim 20, wherein the second free end is sutured to the eye.